

Message

From: Covington, Tayler [covington.tayler@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/5/2018 4:29:40 PM
To: Ash, Christine [Ash.Christine@epa.gov]; McKenna, Douglas [McKenna.Douglas@epa.gov]
CC: Pabst, Douglas [Pabst.Douglas@epa.gov]; Kraft, Nicole [Kraft.Nicole@epa.gov]; Brandt, Peter [Brandt.Peter@epa.gov]; Gratz, Jeff [Gratz.Jeff@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY HELP: NJ.com checking Newark mayor's statement

Thanks, all! Sending up the chain for approval – will send you the final when we get it out to the reporter.

From: Ash, Christine
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 11:13 AM
To: McKenna, Douglas <McKenna.Douglas@epa.gov>
Cc: Covington, Tayler <covington.tayler@epa.gov>; Pabst, Douglas <Pabst.Douglas@epa.gov>; Kraft, Nicole <Kraft.Nicole@epa.gov>; Brandt, Peter <Brandt.Peter@epa.gov>; Gratz, Jeff <Gratz.Jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: MEDIA INQUIRY HELP: NJ.com checking Newark mayor's statement

I'm Ok with DECA's response.

Christine Ash
Chief, Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Section
EPA Region 2
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New York, NY 10007
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(212) 637-4006

On Nov 5, 2018, at 8:44 AM, McKenna, Douglas <McKenna.Douglas@epa.gov> wrote:

Here is our suggested response to those two questions need confirmation from CWD that there are no open LCR violations in SDWIS:

Based on the information provided by the NJDEP to EPA, Newark is not currently in violation of the LCR. They have had exceedances of the action level for lead based on samples taken in their distribution system but that is not a violation under the rule. The exceedances require action on the part of the water system like replacing lead service lines, and providing information to their customers.

Regarding comparisons to Flint, all water systems are different, and we are still gathering information on the specifics in this matter. We do know that Newark has maintained its same source and corrosion control treatment since the rule required them to. We also know that in response to the recent action level exceedances NJDEP required an evaluation of that treatment's effectiveness and the results of that evaluation have raised concerns regarding the current effectiveness of its treatment. In response to the preliminary findings of that evaluation Newark has taken the precautionary steps of notifying it's public, offering individual treatment solutions to the impacted customers and beginning an evaluation on potential modifications to its corrosion control treatment process.

From: Covington, Tayler
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Pabst, Douglas <Pabst.Douglas@epa.gov>; Ash, Christine <Ash.Christine@epa.gov>; Kraft, Nicole <Kraft.Nicole@epa.gov>; McKenna, Douglas <McKenna.Douglas@epa.gov>; Brandt, Peter

<Brandt.Peter@epa.gov>

Subject: MEDIA INQUIRY HELP: [NJ.com](#) checking Newark mayor's statement

Hi all,

Late request and I know none of you are working, but this just came in! Please help me develop a response for Monday for the first part about the claims that Newark is in compliance as far as the LCR goes.

Thanks,
Tayler

From: Michael Warren <MWarren@njadvancemedia.com>

Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 3:27 PM

To: Covington, Tayler <covington.tayler@epa.gov>

Cc: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: [NJ.com](#) checking Newark mayor's statement

Hey Tayler,

Sorry to be reaching out so late on a Friday, but we just got this statement from Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. He makes a few claims that Newark is in compliance with EPA rules; I just wanted to check with you that it is correct.

And since I have you, does the EPA agree with Mayor Baraka's main point here? Does comparing Newark's lead situation to Flint go too far? Or is it a fair comparison?

Best,

Michael W.

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Michael Sol Warren

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From: "Lippman, David" <lippmand@ci.newark.nj.us>

Date: November 2, 2018 at 3:00:48 PM EDT

To: "Lippman, David" <lippmand@ci.newark.nj.us>

Subject: MAYOR RAS J. BARAKA SAYS "NEWARK IS NOT FLINT;" REBUTS DELIBERATE MISINFORMATION CIRCULATING IN THE MEDIA

Contact:

Press Information Office

973-733-8004/8165

PressOffice@ci.newark.nj.us

<image001.png>

November 2, 2018

**MAYOR RAS J. BARAKA SAYS “NEWARK IS NOT FLINT;”
REBUTS DELIBERATE MISINFORMATION CIRCULATING IN
THE MEDIA**

Statement by Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka:

Here is the truth about Newark’s water that many media outlets are failing to report:

As in cities all over the country, Newark’s water is delivered at many homes through obsolete infrastructure – lead service lines, or plumbing containing lead elements. Newark does not own that lead-containing infrastructure. But Newark, like most cities with lead service lines must treat its water to make sure that the water prevents lead from corroding from the pipes or plumbing as much as possible.

NEWARK IS NOT FLINT.

Here are the key differences:

1) Public officials in Flint, Michigan, chose to switch to a different water source, to rely on a water treatment plant with known mechanical and operational deficiencies, *and to discontinue corrosion control treatment*. Newark’s corrosion control grew less effective in recent years in the Pequannock treatment area for multiple reasons, including a shift in the pH of the water, not through any choice; corrosion control is now being improved.

(2) Flint water had a variety of other problems, including widespread water main breaks and elevated levels of bacteria prompting Boil Water Advisories. Newark’s water does not have these problems; it just needs corrosion control improvements, which are underway.

(3) US Environmental Protection Agency found that public officials in Flint and at the state oversight agency had not fully implemented the Lead and Copper Rule and ignored rule violations and lead level elevations; Newark has been in full compliance.

(4) US EPA found that oversight of drinking water law in Michigan languished; New Jersey is an attentive and energetic regulator.

(5) Newark is getting ahead of problems by going far beyond what the law requires in distributing filters and securing state funding to replace private lead service lines.

NEWARK IS MOVING MORE AGGRESSIVELY ON THE LEAD ISSUE THAN ANY CITY EVER HAS. While thousands of water systems across the country have exceeded EPA’s lead-action-level, as Newark did in 2017 and 2018, no city has ever done more than Newark to respond. The Safe Drinking

Water Act does not require Newark to provide filters for its residents – but Newark is doing so. The Safe Drinking Water Act does not require Newark to secure state funding to help its residents pay for replacing their lead service lines – but Newark is doing so. Newark is going above and beyond what the law requires to make sure the city's water infrastructure will support the tremendous growth and development that is on the horizon for Newark.

Newark is acting very quickly on a scientific report it just received at the beginning of October. In early 2018, Newark asked engineers to study the increasing levels of lead in drinking water, and the engineering report just came back at the beginning of October. That report suggested that EPA's usual advice in this situation – making sure everyone knew how to flush their pipes – was not good enough. The report recommended distributing filters, and Newark immediately accepted that recommendation and started doing it as fast as possible.

NEWARK IS COMPLYING WITH THE LAW. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has stated repeatedly and publicly that Newark is in full compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. That law requires Newark to take certain steps to make sure the water is treated properly to reduce lead corrosion as much as possible. NJDEP agrees that Newark is taking all of those steps.

Corrosion control improvements are coming soon for Pequannock treatment area. The engineering report the City received in early October shows that water treatment in the Pequannock treatment area is not protecting against lead corrosion on private property as much as it used to. The report recommended a different kind of treatment – called orthophosphate, as used now in the Wanaque treatment area – and Newark is implementing this recommendation immediately.

Newark has secured money to help people pay to replace their lead lines and plumbing. The City wants every lead service line in the City replaced in the next eight years. Even though Newark does not own those lines, it has secured funding to help residents pay for the replacements. The process of getting the work done is underway.

NEWARK